(d) whether the Ministry has requested to the Planning Commission to make additional allocation of funds in the field of power production; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the commission thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. The 15th Power Survey Committee was constituted in March, 1994 to review the electricity demand projections in details upto 2001-2002 and to project the perspective demand upto 2011-12.

(b) As per the draft Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), following action plan has been contemplated to fulfil the demand for power supply.

(i) Early completion of the on-going projects.

(ii) Maximisation of benefits from the existing plants by improving the Plant Load Factor (PLF).

(iii) Reducing the Transmission & Distribution losses.

(iv) Rationalisation of electricity tariff.

(v) Establishment of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) at Centre and State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) at States level.

(vi) Demand management and energy conservation measures by different end-users.

(c) The 15th Electricity Power Survey Committee has assessed the agricultural, industrial and domestic consumption of power in the States separately upto 2001-02.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Ninth Plan programme and outlay therefor for the power sector is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission.

[English]

LPT at Nanpara, Bahraich (U.P.)

761. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about the LPT at Nanpara District, Bahraich U.P. not functioning for the required hours; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the functioning of Nanpara LPT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) This has been brought to the notice of Prasar Bharati Board which has to take necessary steps to improve the functioning of Nanpara LPT.

[Translation]

Clearance to Renkota Reservoir

762. DR. MAHANT CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal relating to clearance of the Renkota reservoir located at Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh has been pending with the Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which the clearance would be accorded to this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) A proposal for diversion of 51.015 ha. of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of Renkota Tank Project in district Bilaspur has been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. The proposal is under active consideration for final decision, which will be taken shortly.

[English]

Cooperation with Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan

763. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to establish cooperation with Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan in the field of power;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States likely to be benefited as a results thereof of the cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) The status of exchange of power with Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan is as follows :

1. **Bangladesh.** Consequent to the discussion regarding exchange of power between India and Bangladesh at various levels, the two Governments have agreed to prepare a joint feasibility report for interconnection of power systems between Bangladesh and India with Power-Grid Corporation of India Ltd. being authorised to prepare the feasibility report from the Indian side. The Asian Development Bank has agreed to finance a feasibility study for exchange of power between India and Bangladesh under its Regional Technical Assistance Programme. A Tripartite Meeting had been held at ADB, Manila on 29th and 30th May, 1997 regarding the Project. The project envisages export of surplus power from Eastern Region of India to Western

Bangladesh. The project also envisages export of surplus power from Eastern Bangladesh to the North-Eastern Region of India. Initially, this would be of benefit to States belonging to the Eastern and the North-Eastern regions of India and once all the links of the National Grid are complete, the benefit could extend to the country as a whole.

2. **Nepal.** The power exchange between India and Nepal commenced in October, 1971 following Secretary level discussions between the two countries. The quantum of exchange of power initially was upto 5 MW which at present has been raised to 50 MW. the exchange of power takes place at 17 places along the Indo-Nepal border through the existing transmission network. The Mahakali Treaty between Government of India and Nepal provides that Nepal shall have the right to receive 70 million units of energy on a continuous basis, free of cost, from the date of coming into force of the Treaty. For this purpose India is required to construct a 132 KV transmission line upto Mahendra Nagr, Nepal on the Indo-Nepal Border from the Tanakpur Power Station. The transmission line will be constructed by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. An Umbrella agreement between India and Nepal has also been initiated in February, 1996 opening the entry of private sector in the exchange of power between the two countries.

3. **Pakistan.** The Pakistan High Commission, in May, 1997 conveyed to the Government of India that the Government of Pakistan is considering a proposal to export electricity to India and sought technical details on the grid system in India. In response, Government of India conveyed its interest in the proposal in June. 1997 and suggested that technical, commercial and administrative issues should first be examined by a team of experts from India and Pakistan. The Government of India had offered to send a team of experts to Pakistan. Alternatively, it was suggested that the Government of Pakistan may depute an expert team to India. There has been no further progress in the matter.

[Translation]

Final Exams of Chartered Accountancy

764. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chartered Accountancy final examination slated to be held on May 6, 1998 has been deferred to May 14, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidence in future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. One of the papers of Group I of the Final Examination scheduled to be held on 6th May, 1998 was postponed and was held on 14th May, 1998.

(b) Non-adherence of the instructions issued for conduct of the Examinations by the Centre Superintendent of one of the Examination Centres resulted in postponement of the examination.

(c) The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India has discontinued that particular centre for conducting the Chartered Accountants Examinations, in future.

Lions in Kanha National Park

765. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of lions at the Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there has been decline in the number of lions;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of cases of poaching of animals which came to light during the last three years and the number of such cases lying pending in courts and the time of their pendency; and

(e) whether any person has been awarded punishment so far for poaching the animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Lions do not exist in Kanha National Park.

However, according to the last three estimations, population of tigers in the Park has been as under :

1989	–	97
1993	–	100
1995	–	97

The report of 1997 estimation received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh is being analysed prior to arriving at the final figure.

(b) and (c) The population figures of the last three estimations do not indicate any appreciable decline but only a minor variation which may be attributed to the